

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith are two sheets of formal drawings to replace the drawings currently present in the application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were pending in this application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and new Claims 8-10 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-10 are present in the case for consideration by the Examiner in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to as being inconsistent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. When the pressure in space (36) is greater than the pressure in space (33), the gas can pass through openings (34) in tube sheet (32) which surround passageways (tubes) (23). Applicant fails to see the inconsistency noted by the Examiner. Should the Examiner still believe that an inconsistency exists, it is requested that she telephone Applicant's attorney to discuss the matter.

The drawings were objected to because they contained crossed out characters. By this paper, replacement sheets have been submitted to overcome this informality.

The drawings were also objected to because Figure 2 did not include the reference sign mentioned in the specification on page 9, lines 20-21 for the "oxygen containing gas (50')." By this paper, the specification has been amended to remove the reference sign and was replaced with the parenthetical "(not shown)."

The drawings were also objected to because they included reference characters "56," "61" and "67" which were not mentioned in the specification. By this paper, the specification has been amended to include these reference characters.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuderer (4,650,651). Fuderer is directed to an integrated process and apparatus for the primary and secondary catalytic steam reforming of hydrocarbons.

By this paper, claim 1 has been amended to add the additional process limitations of taking the hydrogen and carbon monoxide containing gas and using it via a Fischer-Tropsch reaction to form a hydrocarbons containing stream. Support for this amendment and for new claims 8-10 can be found on pages 11 and 12 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Fuderer reference neither teaches nor suggests the integrated process of producing a syngas and using that syngas to produce a hydrocarbon containing stream via a Fischer-Tropsch process nor the use of a recycle stream from the Fischer-Tropsch process as a feed to a partial oxidation reactor and/or a convective steam reformer. In column 11, lines 8-13 of Fuderer, the patent teaches that that invention can be practiced for the refining of hydrocarbons as part of an overall processing technique for a

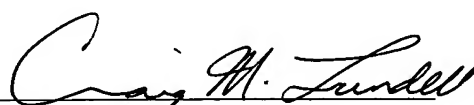
variety of industrial applications such as the production of hydrogen, methanol; ammonia, or syngas. However, there is no teaching to use the invention in combination with a Fischer-Tropsch process.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the case is now in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner find any impediment to the allowance of the claims which could be corrected by telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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